

Fact Sheet

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 Medicaid Infrastructure Grants

Section 203 of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Program. Therefore, CMS solicits proposals from States to expand services and supports in supporting competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities. It appropriated \$150 million in funding over the first 5 years of the program.

Beginning in 2006 the funding amount is taken from the previous year and increased using the consumer price index. The program is authorized for 11 years. The statute stipulates that funds not used in the current year are carried forward to subsequent years.

The MIG program is intended to facilitate enhancements to State Medicaid programs and services, to promote linkages between Medicaid and other employment-related service agencies, and to develop a comprehensive system of employment supports for people with disabilities.

States may develop employment systems through a progression of activities beginning with the development of core Medicaid components. The components include personal assistance services, supported employment and a Medicaid Buy-In program (see below) that enable people with disabilities to participate in their communities through meaningful employment opportunities.

The minimum award to an applicant will be \$500,000 per year. No State or local matching funds are required. The statute requires participating States to offer personal assistance services through the State's Medicaid program sufficient to support individuals in employment. States cannot use infrastructure grant funds to provide direct services to individuals with disabilities.

In addition to authorizing the MIG program, the Ticket to Work legislation established two new optional eligibility categories under Medicaid which are:

(1) Basic Coverage Group. States have the option to offer Medicaid to working individuals at least 16 but less than 65 years of age who, except for their income and resource levels, are eligible to receive SSI. States are free to establish their own income and resource standards. Individuals who have never received SSI benefits can be eligible.

(2) Medical Improvement Group. States have the option to offer Medicaid to employed individuals with a medically improved disability who would otherwise lose Medicaid eligibility because they no longer meet the SSI definition of disability.

Either of the following may apply: (a) the single State Medicaid agency; or (b) any other agency or instrumentality of a State (as determined under State law) in partnership, agreement and active participation with the single State Medicaid agency, the State Legislature, or the Office of the Governor. For purposes of this grant program, "State" is defined as each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Currently 40 states and the District of Columbia have MIG grants.